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ABSTRACT

The Alabama Public Library Service is charged with improving library services throughout Alabama to ensure that all citizens have access to quality library and information services. The agency is responsible for administering federal and state funds for the more than 200 public libraries in Alabama. Building renovations were completed in April 1996. The Technical Services and Support Services departments were merged to form the Technical and Automated Services department. Refinements were made throughout the agency in all areas in the use of automation and technology. Most of the year was spent preparing for and learning to use the SIRSI Library Automated System and expanding the local area network. By the end of the fiscal year, staff had begun preparing for the agency-wide implementation of Internet and World Wide Web access. The Information Services division was created as part of the new organization plan for APLS, and includes the Reference and Interlibrary Loan, Government Documents, Circulation, and Audiovisual departments. The Summer of Champions summer reading program was a rousing success, with Alabama youngsters reading 16.2% more books than last year's summer program. Special appearances were made by Olympic gold medalist Willie Smith and Izzy, the 1996 Summer Olympics mascot. The Blind and Physically Handicapped division circulated 143,185 special format titles to its patrons, and began serving 942 new members. Another new division, Networking, Development & Planning, coordinated the implementation of SIRSI. For fiscal year 1996, the executive board approved $1,237,999 in Library Services and Construction Act grants. State aid totals are provided. (SWC)

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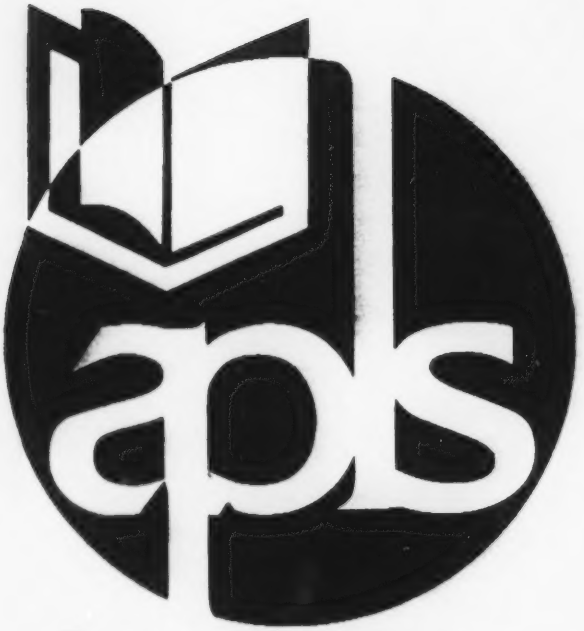

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1996 ANNUAL REPORT

IR056834

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1996 Annual Report

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SERVICE

The Alabama Public Library Service serves the information needs of Alabama public libraries. The agency was created in 1939 when the State Legislature created the Public Library Service as a separate division of the Department of Archives and History. Twenty years later, the Legislature created APLS as a separate state agency.

In 1978, the Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped from Talladega moved to APLS as a new division.

As a state agency, APLS is charged with improving library services throughout the state to ensure that all citizens have access to quality library and information services. The agency is responsible for receiving and administering federal and state funds for the more than 200 public libraries in Alabama.

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Alabama Public Library Service

Patricia L. Harris, Director

Executive Board

District One	Martha Hosey	Gulf Shores
District Two	Janice Franklin	Montgomery
District Three	Bragg Comer II	Sylacauga
District Four	Bobby Junkins	Gadsden
District Five	Sandra Rhodes	Huntsville
District Six	Virginia Doyle	Birmingham
District Seven	Calvin Wright	Toxey

Division Directors

Evaluation and Research	Fred Neighbors
Networking, Development and Planning	Alice Stephens
Technical and Automated Services	Don Hart
Business Office	Jim Dismukes
Information Services	Judy Shepard
Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped	Fara Zaleski

This publication is made possible in part by funds from the Library Services and Constuction Act.

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From The Director

On behalf of the staff of the Alabama Public Library Service, I am pleased to present to you the Fiscal Year 1996 Annual Report.

Progress continued to be made during the year when in April 1996, all hallways were carpeted, the final project to complete the renovation of the building. Major automation projects were continued with the installation of the new SIRSI Library Automated System and expansion of the LAN. In October 1995, a reorganization was implemented creating the Evaluation and Research Division, the creation of two divisions from three former divisions creating the Information Services Division and the Automated and Technical Services Division. In addition, a new division was created to combine several scatter functions into one group called the Networking, Development, and Planning Division. Due to staff vacancies and the difficulty in filling some vacancies, the reorganization was slowly implemented during the year. The APLS Electronic Access Committee met in FY 1996 and developed a draft document for the Executive Board on the electronic needs of public libraries.

I dedicate this year's annual report to the public libraries in Alabama. Without their continued support of APLS, many of our successes would be impossible. Each enhancement made at APLS has been to better serve our libraries. I thank the APLS staff members for their dedication and commitment to excellence as they provide services to the citizens of this State.

Patricia L. Harris

From The Executive Board Chairman

On behalf of the Executive Board, I am pleased to share the progress of the Alabama Public Library Service for FY 1996. The APLS Executive Board is committed to its mission that all Alabamians will have access to quality library and information resources and services to meet their educational, informational and recreational needs.

APLS fulfills this mission by its statutory charge to provide library and information resources and services to meet the needs of the citizens of Alabama by providing direct services, supporting resource sharing, educational opportunities for librarians and trustees and supporting and advocating for quality local public libraries.

Virginia Doyle

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Technical and Automated Services

As a result of agency reorganization, Technical Services and Support Services formed to become the Technical & Automated Services Division.

The year has been one of continuous improvements in the use of automation and technology throughout the agency. Refinements were realized in all areas as staff became more comfortable with the new tools at their disposal and automated services staff continued to improve the services available.

Of major significance was the rapid growth in the use of CD-ROM databases, the increased size of the databases themselves and the inclusion of more databases available on the in-house network.

The integrated library system was installed as part of the local area network. Most of the year was spent preparing for, starting up and learning how to use the SIRSI integrated library system. SIRSI provides the library circulation functions, an online public access catalog, a serials control system and an acquisitions system.

The materials booking Medianet system was connected to the local area network. This provided the audiovisual staff with single station access to the Medianet system as well as office automation, CD-ROM databases, external databases and the integrated library system.

An e-mail component was added to the LAN. This popular new feature is time-saving, allowing employees to communicate without the telephone or on-site.

By the end of the fiscal year, staff had begun preparing for the implemention of internet and world-wide-web access for the agency.

The division ordered 6,647 titles and received 7,184 volumes during the year. Net holdings for the division included 18,065 federal documents and 161,457 non-government document volumes. Expenditures on library materials for FY 96 were $325,411.07 for: books, $198,398.40; serials in hard copy, $24,427.45; microforms, $54,883.87; and CD-ROM databases, $47,701.35.

Information Services

This division was created as part of the new organization plan for APLS. The departments of Reference and Interlibrary Loan, Government Documents, Circulation and Audiovisual are included in this division.

Reference and Interlibrary Loan handled 23,523 requests during the year, a slight drop of three percent over the previous year. The advent of computer technology has allowed many former patrons to find their answers on their personal computers through the internet.

Government documents added 3,289 paper items and 7,202 microfiche items. More than 230 patrons were assisted in Documents.

The Audiovisual Department continued to show increases in circulation. Video circulation increased by 13 percent and times shown increased by 12 percent. A video catalog was mailed in October and a supplement mailed in March.

The next fiscal year should be even more busy for Information Services. The anticipated web page as well as more sophisticated computer technology will allow more users to become aware of APLS and its services.

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Evaluation and Research

Summer of Champions was a rousing success! With all but 10 libraries reporting, Alabama youngsters read 16.2 percent more books during this year's summer library program than last year. From across the state, 46,719 youngsters read 887,268 books from their local libraries. Participating libraries hosted 3,036 programs attended by 139,051 children, 10 percent more than the previous year.

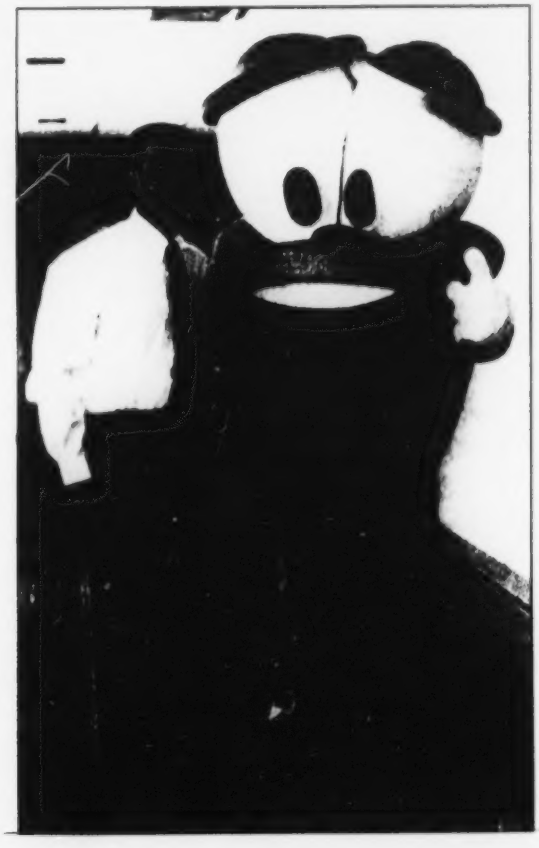
APLS sponsored the kickoff meeting for the program with special appearances by Olympic Gold Medalist Willie Smith and Izzy, the Atlanta Olympics mascot.

More than 100 children's librarians attended the meeting and picked up 2,400 posters, 127,600 bookmarks, 69,330 reading logs and 47,550 reading certificates.

FOUR STAR REVIEW became an integral part of the Children's Book Review Program. The bimonthly publication contains reviews of childrens books considered "must" purchases by the 29 reviewers. During the year, 39 publishers of children's literature submitted 1,822 books for consideration by the reviewers.

FSCS, NCES and NCLIS awarded the agency a Francis Keppel Award for the quality and timeliness of reporting statistical data to the U.S. Census Bureau. The awards are given at the annual meeting of state data coordinators and go to those states meeting national deadlines with accurate data.

LSCA Title II projects in three communities were monitored. New library buildings in Muscle Shoals and Eutaw were completed during the fiscal year. The new library in Luverne was more than 75 percent complete at the end of the year and was expected to open during the first quarter of the new fiscal year.



Olympic Gold Medalist Willie Smith and the official mascot of the '96 Summer Olympics, Izzy, helped librarians kick off the summer library program at APLS

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Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The year began with a surprise -- Hurricane Opal. Although there was no structural damage to the building, several ceiling tiles were replaced from water damage. Several inches of accumulated rain water were siphoned off the adjoining flat roof and a drain was unclogged.

The top priority for the division remained daily circulation with a 24-hour turnaround time. Monthly circulation averaged 11,453 titles, which was 220 titles per month higher than FY 95.

BPH staff learned how to use the new LAN system and completed basic software tutorials. The division also worked with low vision and blind staff members to insure their access into the BPH circulation system.

For FY 96, BPH circulated 143,185 special format titles to its patrons: 4,989 disc, 136,064 cassette and 3,882 braille.

BPH began serving 942 new members for an increase of 48 from the previous year. There were 658 readers dropped from services due to cancellations, deaths or transfers.There were 3,562 individual patrons and 118 institutions using services through the regional office. Staff handled 211 reference/referral questions. BPH requested 172 interlibrary loan titles for its patrons and loaned out 1,750 ILLs for patrons at the subregional libraries. Walk-in patronage averaged 38 visits per month, usually for book or machine exchanges.

Special recording projects included duplicating copies for a Project OASIS brochure, and brailing an employee handbook for a visually impaired dispatcher for the city of Auburn and three issues of *WhAT'S LINE.*

During the year, 21 active volunteers donated 1,570 hours of service to the division.

More than 580 children from 17 groups learned of the library's services by visiting with Regional staff.

New Zealand's Jason Griffiths, national champion swimmer, visited Regional while in training for the Paralympic competition in Atlanta in August. As a braille reader, he browsed the newest "Braille Book Review" with Jimmy Gibson, left, BPH braille librarian.

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Networking, Development & Planning

This new division operated with only its division head for the fiscal year.

The division coordinated the implementation of SIRSI, planned and served on the APLS Electronic Access Committee, developed an Internet grant program for public libraries, consulted with libraries, and coordinated with SOLINET on workshops for public libraries cosponsored by APLS.

Several staff members are expected to be added in the next fiscal year, which will provide even more services to public libraries in the state.

Finances

In 1996, the APLS Executive Board approved grants of Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds under Title I, Title II and Title III to public libraries, library systems and state agencies.

For FY 1996, the board approved $1,237,999 in LSCA grants.

A total of $4,549,357 or $1.08 per capita was awarded in State Aid for FY 96. Below is a breakdown of state aid totals.

In FY 1996, APLS received $7,280,719 from the state and $1,909,812 from the federal government.

During FY 1996, APLS made the following distributions: State Aid to Libraries -- $4,549,357; Agency Operations -- $2,731,362; Federal - Grants -- $1,237,999; and Federal - Agency Operations -- $671,813.

State Aid Totals for 1996

Akron Public Library	$ 510
Anniston-Calhoun County Public Lib	116,240
Ariton Public Library	863
Autauga-Prattville Public Library	41,892
B. B. Comer Memorial Library	14,962
Baldwin County Library Cooperative	114,692
Barbour County Library Cooperative	27,618
Brent-Centreville Public Library	19,032
Carl Elliott Regional Library	99,832
Cheaha Regional Library	129,468
Cherokee Public Library	6,242
Chilton-Clanton Public Library	36,974
Choctaw County Public Library	17,388
Citronelle Memorial Library	4,686
Clarke County Library Dev. Board	30,414
Cross Trails Regional Library	126,766
Cullman County Pub Library System	77,380
Daleville Public Library	7,858
DeKalb County Public Library	62,161
Escambia Co. Coop. Library System	39,371
Evergreen-Conecuh Co. Pub. Library	15,247
Fayette County Memorial Library	19,456
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library	89,905
Foley Public Library	7,106
Gadsden-Etowah Co. Public Library	108,301
Greenville-Butler Co. Pub. Library	23,711
H. Grady Bradshaw-Chambers Co. Lib.	40,261
Hale County-Greensboro Library	3,348
Harrison Regional Library System	122,954
Hayneville/Lowndes Co. Pub. Library	13,041
Helen Keller Public Library	13,627
Henry County Library Authority	17,002
Horseshoe Bend Regional Library	213,745
Houston-Love Memorial Library	90,825
Huntsville-Madison Co. Pub. Library	279,215
Ina Pullen Smallwood Memorial Lib.	6,940
James C. Poole Jr. Memorial Library	$ 10,944
Jefferson County Library System	715,345
Leighton Public Library	5,540
Macon County-Tuskegee Pub. Library	26,135
Marengo Library System	25,434
Marshall County Cooperative Library	83,314
Mary Berry Brown Memorial Library	2,259
Mobile Public Library	372,371
Monroe County Public Library	26,416
Montgomery City-County Pub. Library	235,960
Mose Hudson Tapia Public Library	2,611
Moundville Public Library	1,726
Muscle Shoals Public Library	15,674
Newton Public Library	2,822
Northwest Regional Library	81,125
Oneonta Public Library	44,801
Ozark-Dale Co. Public Library Inc.	40,656
Perry County Library Development	13,622
Phenix City-Russell Co Pub. Library	56,192
Pickens County Cooperative Library	22,638
Pike County Library Cooperative	31,004
Prichard Public Library	35,964
Robertsdale Public Library	3,281
Satsuma Public Library	6,086
Scottsboro Public Library	53,575
Selma-Dallas County Public Library	51,966
Sheffield Public Library	15,718
St. Clair County Library	59,949
Sumter County Library System	17,712
Talladega Public Library	20,742
Tuscaloosa Public Library	169,827
Union Springs Public Library	12,132
Washington County Public Library	18,575
Wheeler Basin Regional Library	212,463
White Hall Public Library	844
Wilcox County Library	14,901

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